

OPORD Briefing Tips - MCCC

Analysis of Mission Brief

1. Purpose of the briefing.
2. Orient to map and graphics.
3. Higher concept, battalion and brigade. Use a sketch.
4. Tasks: Specified, implied and essential.
5. Constraints
6. Company mission statement.

Terrain & Weather Analysis Brief

1. Post your map & Graphical Terrain Overlay (GTO) orient and give a general overview of Terrain & Weather. Then state the results of your analysis, e.g. *the effects*.
2. Obstacles
 - a. Existing
 - b. Reinforcing
 - c. Effects on both enemy and friendly.
3. AoA
 - a. Categorize mobility corridors and group them into AoA's.
 - b. Likely dismounted, mounted and air.
 - c. Effects on both enemy and friendly.
4. Key Terrain
 - a. Why is it key?
 - b. Identify any existing decisive terrain.
5. Observation & Fields of Fire
 - a. IV Lines
 - b. Effects on both enemy and friendly.
6. Cover & Concealment. Effects on both enemy and friendly.
7. Weather, explain effects in as they relate to the impact on:
 - a. Visibility
 - b. Mobility
 - c. Survivability
8. As you do your analysis you should be attempting to draw conclusions. Such as potential decisive points, SBF locations, mortar locations, etc. If you blow this analysis off, your whole COA will be a crashshoot.

Enemy Analysis Brief

1. Give an overview of the threat's concept 2 levels up. Same way you would do for your own higher concept, show a picture.
2. Disposition. Now show your Plt leaders where all this stuff is on the battlefield. You must consider from 2 levels up to 2 levels down. You also must consider which units you feel are the supporting and main efforts as this will impact on what weapon/equipment they are allocated (no different than from what we do to weight the DO). You may not have all this information at this point, but after you have developed a MPCOA you should then update the assets allocated to each sub-unit. Remember, systematic and continuous. For offensive action you want to discuss formations and for defensive action you should be concerned with how he is arrayed in strongpoints, ambushes, reserves, etc.
3. Composition. Account for every asset that will affect you, by WFF, available 2 levels up. Keep your threat organizational line chart handy, this is how the enemy will organize for combat. You may not believe that all these assets will be seen within your AO, but you must account for them. The asset you get lazy on, will be asset he kicks your ass with. Again, draw a picture.
4. Strengths. Don't just tell your Plt Leaders "He's at 60% across the board," do the math and give him the actual strength figures. Love these guys; give them some info on the threat's tactical strengths and weaknesses as well. Include applicable weapons systems and their ranges.
5. Capabilities. By WFF, tell your Plt Leaders what the threat is capable of. Don't tell them what you think he will do (that's later); tell them what he is CAPABLE of doing. When you get to the

maneuver WFF, break it down into an analysis of his capability to Defend, Reinforce, Withdraw, Attack, Defend (DRAW-D). **Ensure you brief enemy weaknesses - Vulnerabilities.**

“For Company phase you will only do the MPCOA”

6. MPCOA. Throw up your COMPLETE (e.g. IAW the “Minimum SITTEMP Standards”) SITTEMP and tell your Plt Leaders how you see the threat fighting his composition, given his capabilities, strengths/weaknesses against the PERCIEVED THREAT! Do not forget how the terrain and weather will affect HIS plan.
7. MDCOA. What can the threat do that will cause you to conduct a MAJOR change in your COA to accomplish your purpose?
8. This will be your hardest step as you are most unfamiliar with it. Build your threat analysis shell and use it. If you blow this analysis off, your COA will be a crapshoot.

Bn Cmdr Back-brief/Course of Action Brief

1. Review Company Task Organization
2. Enemy MPCOA
3. Effects of Terrain & Weather on Enemy MPCOA and Friendly Concept
4. Company Restated Mission
5. Company Commander's Intent
6. Concept of the Operation
 - Scheme of Maneuver (by event)
 - Locations of Key personnel
7. Adjusted Timeline
8. Issues/Concerns

Operations Order Briefing Format

1. Start with an introduction of yourself and what you are about to brief.
2. Task Organization, by platoon and Co HQ.
3. Orient platoon leaders to the map. Then “box-in” the AI and AO and focus on major terrain features within the AO. **Every time you use a new map, overlay and/or sketch you must orient the listener to it.**
4. Terrain and Weather. Start with a general overview of terrain. Then brief the effects of terrain using your GDOT and walk your Platoon Leaders through each element of OAKOC. Provide the pertinent weather facts, and then describe their effects (as described above).
5. Para 1a/Enemy Situation. Provide detail on the threat as you see it. Composition, disposition, strengths (tactical and organizational), capabilities (by WFF), MPCOA and MDCOA (as described above).
6. Para 1b/Higher (Bn) concept. Show your Plt Leaders a picture, don't read it from the Bn order. The goal is to show your Plt Leaders how they all fit into the fight and how their success or failure will impact on the units to their left, right and most importantly; higher.
7. Para 2/Mission (read x 2).
8. Para 3/Execution. Brief your intent and then the Concept of the Operation statement, complete and fully formed. Here are a couple of techniques to brief the rest of paragraph 3.
Number one: brief the OPORD “in order”, as you were taught in IOBC e.g., brief each sub-paragraph (maneuver, fires, engineer, etc, as they will take place. Not all of the CSS at one time, but in a chronological order as it will happen in time)
Or and this is not recommended as we will discuss...Number two: After you brief the Concept of Operations statement, you brief your company Execution Matrix w/ your COA Sketch; this is when you tell all your subordinates how their individual tasks and purposes, tasks to maneuver units, and your intent fit together to accomplish the company purpose. This technique is the preferred method, but it's a technique that will require practice.
9. Para 4/Service Support. Make sure you cover **CASEVAC** and any other important Log issues. **If you briefed it in Para 3 you don't need to brief it again.**
10. Para 5/CMD & SIG. Make sure you cover your **COMMO**, and **Signal Plan**, (e.g. initiate, shift, cease, primary & alternate). **If you briefed it in Para 3 you don't need to brief it again.**

Tips For Success

1. Use a pointer, not a stubby finger.
2. Be positive, portray confidence or NO ONE will have confidence in your plan.
3. Follow the steps to the TLP and more importantly, the steps to Mission Analysis. If your terrain analysis is faulty all the hard work subsequent to it will be for nothing. Keep a copy of the steps handy while you plan. You can draw conclusions as you work through it, but don't jump the gun directly to COA development. Work the steps in a linear/systematic fashion, but keep in mind that this process is continual, if you get more information and/or pick up on something as you go stop and return to the step it pertains to. If you don't you'll miss the conclusion.
4. Develop WARNO/planning worksheets and laminate them. This should have stuff on it like specified tasks, implied tasks, enemy comp/disposition/strength & capabilities. You can quickly write things down as you listen to and/or read the battalion order. Make sure that your worksheets follow the steps to the TLP and mission analysis; this will keep you from forgetting steps when you are tired and hungry.
5. Develop and laminate a WARNO/OPORD shell.
6. A picture, well explained is worth its weight in gold!!!
7. Produce a written order whenever possible. You will not have to during this course, but in the field it's a good idea to do so. Leave it at your CP with your RTO's, and then your Plt Leaders can come and check if they need to. With no written order you may forget the great plan you put together.

